

Sewage Disposal In An Emergency

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

In a large magnitude earthquake, sewer lines will probably be damaged and become inoperable. Sewage may back up and broken water lines may become contaminated by sewage.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If stoppage in sewer lines is suspected or obvious, discontinue discharge of waste water in house or building drains and stop flushing toilets. Avoid contact with any overflowing waste water or sewage. Plug bathtub and sink drains to prevent sewage backup.

WHAT CAN I USE?

- 1) A dug latrine or trench 2' - 3' deep can be used to bury human waste. Spread a thin layer of powdered lime and a layer of earth each time it is used.
- 2) Large extra-strength trash bags (*double bagged*) may be placed in watertight, plastic or metal containers with tight-fitting lids, or used as liners in toilets. Household disinfectant (*i.e., bleach*) can be used for odor control. Final disposal can be done by burying the bags or by using the toilet when notified by public officials.
- 3) Portable camp toilets, RV toilets, porta-potties, etc., may also be used.



County of San Bernardino • Department of Public Health
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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